

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Wakarusa Hotel

177-5588-002

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

south half of Lot 58, and all of Lots 60 and 62, Main street

CITY, TOWN

Wakarusa

VICINITY OF

No. 2

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Jim Jeffries

STATE

Kansas

CODE

20

COUNTY

Shawnee

CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☒ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☒ OTHER: unoccupied**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Richard E. or Cynthia A. Taylor

STREET & NUMBER

4725 South Topeka # 19

CITY, TOWN

Topeka

VICINITY OF

STATE

Kansas

66609

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Register of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Shawnee County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Topeka

STATE

Kansas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

___EXCELLENT
___GOOD
☒FAIR

___DETERIORATED
___RUINS
___UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

___UNALTERED
☒ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ORIGINAL SITE
___MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Wakarusa Hotel building is a simple two story rectangular limestone structure with gable roof and basement. The front gable structure faces west on the town's main street.

Vertically proportioned window openings with plain stone sills and lintels are arranged symmetrically on all facades, two in each story of the west and east facades, three in each story of the south facade, four in each story of the north facade.

Doors occur in the center of the first story of the west facade and toward the east of the south facade. A small one-story frame porch with shed roof shelters the south entrance.

In the center of each gable near the peak is an arched opening with simple stone trim. The roof trim consists of a simple boxed cornice treatment.

The west wall is laid up with rough faced, regularly coursed, cut stone. The other walls are treated similarly, though on these subsidiary facades the variation in the size and shape of the stones is greater, causing the appearance of rubble wall construction.

The following alterations have occurred:

- (1) Two historical alterations--a two-story addition to the north and a one-story addition to the east--have been removed, although as a result of these additions three of the original window openings on the north and one of the original window openings on the west were enlarged to accommodate connecting doorways.
- (2) The original one-story frame porch on the west facade has been removed.
- (3) A yellow wash has been applied to the exterior where the walls were not covered by additions. The poor quality of the stonework seems to have been the reason for applying this protective skin on the exposed wall surfaces.
- (4) The roof has been resingled over the years and the superstructure of one chimney removed.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> /SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES 1873

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Wakarusa Hotel was the first business beside the railroad station to be established in Wakarusa. The oldest surviving structure in town, it remains today as a noteworthy reminder of Wakarusa's early history and evidences the character of the early businesses that developed in the small Kansas communities that grew up along railroad routes and became important sources of services for rural populations.

The town of Wakarusa, located some 12 miles south of Topeka, was platted in 1858. It served as the center for a small farming community and was located as a station on the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railroad line.

W.H. Mills came to Kansas in 1869 from Illinois. By 1873 he was the proprietor of the Wakarusa Hotel, a modest two story stone structure with twelve rooms which he is reported to have built himself. In 1883, the A.T. Andreas History of the State of Kansas reported that W.H. Mills was not only associated with a hotel business, but also ran a livery business, a grain trade and a store. This latter enterprise was housed in a structure adjoining the hotel to the north. The Andreas entry states that the store "has a good railroad trade and is fast running into a good county trade located on the road from Topeka to Carbondale, about twelve miles from Topeka and six miles from Carbondale north and south, and from twelve to fifteen miles from any other store east and west. His hotel is also flourishing, being constantly full and largely transient."

Mills died in 1903, but in the Kansas Gazeteer and Business Directory of 1912, the Wakarusa Hotel was still listed as a functioning enterprise. It is not known how long the hotel continued to operate or what all the other uses were to which the building may have been put. It apparently was used as a residence for many years. The current owner intends to rehabilitate the structure and use it both for a residence and a small business.

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CONTINUATION SHEET 1

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 1

Bibliography:

Bird, Roy D., and Douglass W. Wallace, Witness of the Times (Topeka, Shawnee County Historical Society, 1976), pp. 55, 58, 353-356.

Cone, Lois Johnson, "On the Wakarusa," Shawnee County Historical Society Bulletin, No. 31 (December, 1958), pp. 41-43.

Cone, William W., Historical Sketch of Shawnee County (Topeka, Kansas Farmer Printing House, 1877), pp. 8, 14.

History of the State of Kansas (Chicago, A.T. Andreas, 1883), pp. 596, 597.

King, James L., History of Shawnee County (Chicago, Richmond and Arnold, 1905), p. 53.

"Name Intrigues, But Wakarusa's History Quiet," Topeka Journal, November 20, 1954.

"Williamsport Township," Topeka Mail and Breeze, May 22, 1896 (Historical Edition).

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

see continuation sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY one

UTM REFERENCES

A 1, 5 2, 6, 6, 1, 4, 5 4, 3, 0, 7, 2, 4, 0
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

South half of Lot 58, and all of Lots 60 and 62, Main street, Wakarusa.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Julie A. Wortman

ORGANIZATION

Kansas State Historical Society

DATE

February 21, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

120 West 10th

TELEPHONE

913 296-3251

CITY OR TOWN

Topeka, Kansas 66612

STATE

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society

DATE February 22, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER